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Security Council

Fifty-second Year

Provisional

3798th Meeting

Friday, 11 July 1997, 5 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Osvald	(Sweden)
Members:	Chile	Mr. Larraín
	China	Mr. Chen Weixiong
	Costa Rica	Mr. Murillo
	Egypt	Mr. Elaraby
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Cabral
	Japan	Mr. Konishi
	Kenya	Mr. Mahugu
	Poland	Mr. Matuszewski
	Portugal	Mr. Soares
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Choi
	Russian Federation	Mr. Fedotov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Gomersall
	United States of America	Mr. Wood

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

97-85822 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

The President: In accordance with the decisions taken at the 3797th meeting, I invite the Minister for Foreign affairs of Nigeria and the representative of Sierra Leone to take seats at the Council table; I invite the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ghana and the representative of Zimbabwe to take the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

At the invitation of the President, Chief Ikimi (Nigeria) and Mr. Jonah (Sierra Leone) took seats at the Council table; Mr. Essy (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. Camara (Guinea), Mr. Gbeho (Ghana) and Mr. Mapuranga (Zimbabwe) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: The Security Council will now continue its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls the statement of its President of 27 May 1997 (S/PRST/1997/29) following the military *coup d'état* in Sierra Leone on 25 May 1997. It remains deeply concerned about the continuing crisis in Sierra Leone and its negative humanitarian consequences on the civilian population including refugees and internally displaced persons and in particular, the atrocities committed against Sierra Leone's citizens, foreign nationals and personnel of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Monitoring Group. It reiterates its view that the attempt to overthrow the democratically elected Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah is unacceptable and calls again for the immediate and unconditional restoration of constitutional order in the country.

"The Security Council is concerned about the grave crisis in Sierra Leone which endangers the peace, security and stability of the whole region and, in particular, about its possible negative impact on the ongoing peace process in neighbouring Liberia.

"The Security Council strongly supports the decision of the Thirty-third Summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 2 to 4 June 1997 which appealed to the ECOWAS leaders and the international community to help the people of Sierra Leone to restore the constitutional order in that country and which underlined the imperative need to implement the Abidjan Agreement which continues to serve as a viable framework for peace, stability and reconciliation in Sierra Leone.

"The Security Council welcomes the participation of the Foreign Ministers of ECOWAS members of the Committee of Four in its 3797th meeting of 11 July 1997.

"The Security Council welcomes the mediation efforts initiated by ECOWAS and expresses its full support for the objectives of these efforts as set out in the final communiqué (S/1997/499), issued at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of ECOWAS, held in Conakry, Guinea, on 26 June 1997.

"The Security Council calls upon those who have seized power to cooperate fully with these efforts so that the constitutional order in Sierra Leone will be restored immediately.

"The Security Council will continue to follow closely the progress of efforts aimed at the peaceful resolution of the crisis and stands ready to consider appropriate measures if constitutional order in Sierra Leone is not restored without delay.

"The Security Council will remain actively seized of this matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1997/36.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.